

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION SS-25

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USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 06977

EXDIS

GENEVA FOR CSCE DELEGATION

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CSCE XG

SUBJECT: CSCE: FRENCH REPLY TO BREZHNEV'S LETTER AS
PLANNED

REF: (A) PARIS 6270; (B) USNATO 1479; (C) STATE 58915

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. FRENCH PRESIDENCY MADE PUBLIC MARCH 18 BREZHNEV'S
SUGGESTION OF JUNE 30 AS DATE FOR STAGE III CSCE SUMMIT.
PRESIDENCY ALSO INFORMED THE PUBLIC THAT GISCARD'S REPLY
EXPRESSED HOPE STAGE III SUMMIT COULD BE HELD AS SOON
AS POSSIBLE AFTER THE FIRST HALF OF 1975, PROVIDED
PROGRESS COULD BE MADE ON IMPORTANT ISSUES STILL UN-
RESOLVED AT GENEVA. END UNCLASSIFIED

2. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. QUAI DIRECTOR FOR EUROPE
ANDREANI TOLD POLCOUNSELOR THAT GOF HEARD NOTHING IN-
CONSISTENT AT MARCH 17 NAC CONSULTATIONS WITH THEIR
PROPOSED REPLY TO BREZHNEV DESCRIBED REFTEL (A).
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PRESIDENCY THEREFORE WENT AHEAD AND SENT REPLY AS

PLANNED MARCH 18. ANDREANI SAID THAT MODIFIED REFERENCE TO TIMING "AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER THE FIRST HALF OF 1975" IS CONSISTENT WITH BOTH BREZHNEV'S DESIRE FOR JUNE 30 AND US FEELING THAT JULY 15 OR LATER IS MORE REALISTIC. MAIN ELEMENT OF GOF THINKING NOW IS TO EXTRACT AS MANY ADDITIONAL CONCESSIONS AS POSSIBLE FROM SOVIETS AT GENEVA.

3. ANDREANI SAID THAT COPY OF GISCARD'S REPLY WHICH CAME BACK TO QUAI SHOWED STRENGTHENING OF LANGUAGE LINKING SELECTION OF SUMMIT DATE TO PROGRESS IN GENEVA NEGOTIATIONS. NEW LANGUAGE SAYS, "IF PROGRESS IS ACHIEVED, THE PARTICIPATING STATES WOULD BE ABLE TO FIX A DATE FOR STAGE III SUMMIT." EARLIER LANGUAGE DID NOT HAVE CONDITIONAL TENSE.

4. BEGIN XGDS-1. ANDREANI SAID THAT SOVIETS WILL PRESS PRIME MINISTER CHIRAC TO INCLUDE FAVORABLE REFERENCE TO JUNE 30 SUMMIT DATE IN COMMUNIQUE TO BE ISSUED DURING HIS OFFICIAL VISIT TO USSR, BUT SAUVAGNARGUES IS GOING ALONG TO HELP CHIRAC RESIST THIS PRESSURE. ANDREANI SAID THAT IN QUAI THINKING, DIE IS OBVIOUSLY CAST FOR SUMMIT MEETING THIS YEAR. IN VIEW OF VERY MEAGER BENEFITS TO WEST (HIS TERM) ACHIEVED AT GENEVA, QUAI SENIOR LEVELS FEEL THAT STAGE III OF CSCE MUST BE DE-EMPHASIZED AS JUST ONE MORE, BUT NOT MAJOR, ELEMENT OF OVERALL DETENTE PROCESS. THAT IS WHY, ANDREANI VOLUNTEERED, QUAI OFFICIALS TEND TO BE NEGATIVE TOWARD THE IDEA OF A WESTERN SUMMIT PRIOR TO HELSINKI. SUCH AN EVENT WOULD TEND TO OVEREMPHASIZE IMPORTANCE OF CSCE SUMMIT AND CONTRIBUTE TO POPULAR EUPHORIA WHICH WESTERN GOVERNMENTS WISH TO AVOID. END XGDS-1

5. COMMENT: ANDREANI'S COMMENTS REFLECT QUAI THINKING ONLY, AND DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT THINKING OF PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING AND HIS ASSOCIATES. FACT THAT PRESIDENCY MADE PUBLIC SUBSTANCE OF EXCHANGE WITH BREZHNEV ON CSCE INDICATES THAT GISCARD IS KEENLY AWARE OF DOMESTIC POLITICAL ADVANTAGES (ON LEFT OF SPECTRUM) OF HIS PERSONAL ASSOCIATION WITH THIS EXERCISE.
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